

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action mailed January 13, 2004 and have made amendments to the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 18-19, 21, 37-38, and 40 under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph:

The Examiner indicated that claims 18-19, 21, 37-38, and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph, because the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The Examiner also indicated that claims 18-19, 21, 37-38, and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

To expedite prosecution, claims 18-19, 21, 37-38, and 40 have hereby been canceled.

Conclusions

By way of the above amendments, claims 18-19, 21-25, 28-31, 33-38, and 40 have been canceled. As such, claims 20, 26, 32, and 39 are pending, each of which claims the Examiner indicated are allowed.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (240) 453-3812 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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